

Evening Telegraph

A DAILY AFTERNOON NEWSPAPER.

OFFICE NO. 108 S. THIRD STREET.
 Prices: THREE CENTS PER COPY (Monthly, Quarterly, and Annually in Advance).
 Advertisements: Insertions in the Evening Telegraph, at the rate of \$1.00 per line for the first week, and 50 cents for each subsequent week. A discount of 10 per cent. is made for cash in advance. A liberal arrangement made for extended insertions.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1864.

THE NATIONAL BANKING SYSTEM—REPORT OF THE COMPTROLLER OF THE CURRENCY.

The second Annual Report of the Comptroller of the Currency has been laid before Congress and the public. It demonstrates the success which has so far attended this crowning effort of Chief Justice Chase's genius. When the idea of thus changing all the State Banks into Banking Houses of the United States was first suggested, all the opponents of the Administration commenced uttering their circular predictions of national bankruptcy and ruin. Like all inventions, the loco-mo portion of our population laughed it to scorn. Time, however, has proved its efficiency. It has demonstrated that such a plan as the one adopted was of great practical utility, and that the demands of the nation required some such system should be put into active operation.

The report announces the fact that during the last year there have been two hundred and eighty-two new banks organized, and one hundred and sixty-eight (168) State banks have availed themselves of the provisions of Congress, and become national organizations. That there are now in existence five hundred and eighty-four (584) such corporations; of which the Keystone State boasts one hundred and nine (109), the largest number which any Commonwealth can claim. Foremost in her trust in the national honor as regards currency, as she has always been in regard to the necessity of national line, she proudly takes her place at the head of the arch, and claims her rights as Keystone of the American Union. First in the number of her sons, first in this pouring out her blood to subdue the Rebellion and establish the supremacy of right, she today is the most lavish in the expenditure of her money, and will in the future, as in the past, never hesitate to fulfill every requirement which the nation may make of her. She has wealth sufficient. She has men enough, and she will ever meet demands of men and money rendered necessary by the nation's emergency.

In the amount of capital invested in this national system, Massachusetts claims the lead, being \$4,800,000 more than Pennsylvania, which is second on the list.

The rapid increase of banking capital in certain localities where, previous to the passage of the act, there was no demand for such investment, is regretted by the Comptroller. The rapid increase tends to render unsafe the currency. "It has not been the intention of the friends of the system," says the Comptroller, "to increase the amount of paper money in circulation," but merely to change the notes of the State banks into national currency. The recent action of the Legislature of our own State has done much towards removing all fears of such a catastrophe. By enabling State banks with ease to change their charters the deficiency is obviated. No increase in paper money results. New banks are formed, but for every dollar loaned a dollar of State money is withdrawn. The equilibrium is thus kept up.

From whichever side we view the plan of which the Chief Justice is the father, we can but admire it. It was an original move; it appeared daring to the timid; but seeming rash now is often the safest discretion; and what the Democrats hailed as the erratic effort of temerity has proved itself the sound deed of a mature and able intellect.

The subject of finance is one which it behooves the people at large to be thoroughly acquainted with. We have therefore devoted a large space of our editorial columns to the consideration of this subject, and shall still continue to review all important papers relating to this most important subject. Thanks to the comprehensive minds which have heretofore had the control of our financial affairs, the nation has suffered only the recurring evils incident on a state of civil war; and we doubt not, notwithstanding the dolorous prophecies of certain of our citizens affected with melancholia, that the same ability which has guided the "Ship of State" through the turbulent seas of the past, will continue to govern us until the safe harbor of peace is successfully reached.

THE PUBLIC DOMAIN AS A SOURCE OF NATIONAL REVENUE.

In the late able report of the Secretary of the Treasury, the attention of Congress is called to the public domain as an important source of revenue. The receipts from that source, we are told, have not hitherto been at all equal to the vast extent and value of the lands, and it is very properly suggested that some legislation should be had at once upon the subject, with a view to swell the income of the Treasury. Mr. Fessenden says that the "agricultural region has, through the operation of the Homestead law, almost ceased to afford a direct revenue," and he expresses a regret that the non-anticipation of this present civil war opened the way for the adoption of a land system which renders so large a portion of the public domain unavailable as a basis of credit, either by pledging its proceeds, or by appropriating them permanently to the

creation of a sinking fund for the ultimate redemption of the public debt.

Though the system of granting gratuitously to actual settlers such of the public lands as are fit for agriculture, besides bestowing them as bounties to our brave soldiers, and also as donations to corporations, to aid in the construction of main lines of railway, cannot now be repealed, yet we are of the opinion that while the policy referred to may have almost entirely extinguished the direct revenue from the lands in question, an indirect revenue from them has been created within the last thirty years that is far greater and more valuable than that which the Government could ever, by any possible means, have derived from the territory directly. By way of illustration we recite the following well authenticated facts:—The growth of the productive powers of the West is largely due to the increased facilities for transportation. During the past ten years there have been built, in that section of the country, 3056 miles of railroad, at a cost of \$234,280,464, mostly by Eastern or imported capital. The Illinois Central Railroad Company alone brought into Illinois \$30,000,000, and built a road which enabled the Federal Government to sell \$11,000,000 worth of land, and the Company to sell \$20,000,000 worth more, to actual settlers, making over \$61,000,000 concentrated in that State by the operations of one company. The chief effect of this has been to swell the aggregate grain receipts at Chicago, during the ten years, to 158,544,544 bushels, which, at an aggregate cost of sixty cents per bushel (the value for 1860 at Chicago), would be worth \$100,000,000—thus exceeding by about \$100,000,000 the cost of the railroads, through the agency of which the grain was made available. In 1861, the grain increased to 47,077,530 bushels, the southern routes being closed, and in 1862 the amount was 69,159,393 bushels.

Thus the land donated by Congress to aid in constructing the Illinois Central Railway has contributed to create an increased wealth and production, which, no doubt, pays a revenue to the national treasury, from various sources and in manifold ways, much greater in its aggregate than any sum the lands could ever have yielded directly.

Then again it must not be forgotten that the country has gained incalculably in power and prosperity through that vast current of emigration which our Homestead law has been mainly instrumental in drawing hither from all parts of Europe and Great Britain. This access to our strength in population began to be decidedly marked about the year 1829, from which time to 1860 the arrival of emigrants from abroad may be stated as follows:—

There arrived in 10 years:—	
From 1850 to 1860, -	211,490
From 1840 to 1850, -	552,000
From 1830 to 1840, -	1,558,303
From 1820 to 1830, -	1,707,824
Total, -	5,032,115

Being a yearly average of 125,550 for the last 40 years, and 270,762 for the last 10 years. The population of France in 1861 was 27,949,668; in 1861, 37,473,132, being about 37 per cent. increase in 60 years.

The population of Prussia has increased since 1816 at the rate of 79 per cent. in 45 years. England and Wales show an increase of 121 per cent. in 60 years against an increase in the United States in 60 years of 533 per cent.

The positive result of this immense influx of population, settled mostly on fertile lands, and which was just so much productive power taken from other nations and added to ours, is shown in a corresponding advance in the material wealth of the people of the United States. The assessed value of that portion of property which is actually taxed increased as follows:—In 1791 (estimated), \$750,000,000; 1816 (estimated), \$1,800,000,000; 1859 (official valuation), \$7,135,789,228; 1860 (official valuation), \$10,159,016,093; showing an increase in the last decade alone of \$2,923,815,240.

In view of such statistics, it may be said that our national land system has, on the whole, been wise and beneficial in an eminent degree; and Secretary Fessenden, while expressing a doubt whether it would have been adopted in prospect of the struggle in which the nation is now engaged, says it may be fairly questioned whether, and to what extent, the public domain, given away to actual settlers, has not afforded through immigration, which is daily augmenting the resources and power of the Republic, all the material aid to the Government in this crisis of its affairs which it could have been made to render by any different policy.

In May last there remained of the public land belonging to the Government of the United States, 94,901,525 acres—an estate in itself large enough, if wisely managed in the future, to pay the whole present debt of the nation, principal and interest.

MORIBUND CURIOSITY.

The desire for witnessing scenes of misery and suffering seems to be inherent in many men. It is a species of excitement in which they delight. If some poor wretch is to suffer on the gallows, the Sheriff is instantly beset with applications from all quarters for permission to behold the dying agonies of the criminal; men of education and high standing become suitors for admission to the enclosure when the dismal tragedy is to be enacted, and happy is he who can secure an entrance. Pass the court-house door, and you will find it thronged with people anxious to get a look at the unfortunate who are entering or leaving the prison van.

With eager eyes they gaze at them as they hurry past, and when the gloomy vehicle is driven off, they turn slowly away, as if sorry that the entertainment was so brief. Look at yonder dwelling, whose door, draped with the symbols of woe, tells plainly

that it is a house of mourning. Before it stands the solemn hearse, and a host of eager faces are gathered there to watch the coffin as it is brought out, and gaze at the grief-stricken friends of the dead. We meet evidences of this passion at every step we take.

If a man falls and breaks a limb, crowds flock around him to listen to his groans. If a horse, taxed beyond his strength by a heartless driver—far more of a brute than the animal he abuses—sinks to the ground, instead of turning away in disgust, men stand and gaze at his sufferings; and if he dies where he has fallen, the scene is so much the more exciting and engaging. It is this taste for the horrible that has made Fox's record of the sufferings of the early Christian martyrs so popular. Men read it, not as a record of noble fortitude and daring in the cause of right, but to gratify a diseased appetite to which it ministers.

So strong in man is this desire for scenes of distress and agony, that HORACE WALPOLE relates that, at the execution of Earl Farnham, two of the hangmen quarreled for the rope with which they had hung him, and the one who lost it burst into tears.

Another species of morbid curiosity is the pleasure men take in witnessing deformities and monstrosities. Poets and novelists extol the beauties of a swan-like neck in a woman, but we venture to say that a lady would be much more sought after if she had in reality a neck like the bird in question, than when such a resemblance existed merely in the vivid imagination of these gentlemen. A man who has a nose like his neighbors might starve, but he would soon grow wealthy had he but the power to elongate it into the proportions of an elephant. We have a very recent illustration of this taste of the masses for the horrible, in the immense concourse of people that thronged to witness the execution of MULLER, the supposed murderer of BRITTON. It is proper to add that a more disgraceful exhibition of the degradation of human nature than that presented by the dense crowd on that occasion has seldom been witnessed.

GOVERNOR BROWN AND HIS CABBAGES.

Governor Brown, of Georgia, is, it seems, extremely fond of cabbages. He has a weakness for chickens, too, and one of his favorite dishes is bacon and greens. The Savannah Republic of December 3 tells us that when Governor Brown left Milledgeville he took with him all his own property of every description, including his furniture, carriage and horses, poultry, and even the cabbages that grew in his garden! All the powder, however, of the State, at Milledgeville, was left behind, to make room for the "collards" and chickens. Three thousand stand of arms were likewise abandoned by him. Governor Brown took care of the cabbages, and we took care of the three thousand stand of arms.

It was very natural that Governor Brown should behave in this manner. Like the opossum of his own sweet South, he watched his opportunity for leaping from tree to tree; or, perhaps, he was just recovering from the fever and ague, and retired to "one of his extensive plantations in Southwestern Georgia," to shake the persimmons down, and manufacture them into brandy and beer. But whilst he is brewing his beer at home, the people are braving his arm in a storm abroad, which is no tempest in a teacup. Whilst he is enjoying his carriages and cabbages, his hens and his horses, the Savannah papers are bitterly decanting upon the three thousand stand of arms abandoned, and the Government powder left behind.

But hear what the Savannah Republic itself says:—"When Governor Brown left Milledgeville, he took with him all of his own property of every description, including his furniture, carriage and horses, poultry, and even the cabbages that grew in his garden. The train was loaded with these individual assets, and all set safely to one of his extensive plantations in Southwestern Georgia. He took good care of himself."

Was he equally diligent in looking after the affairs and property of the State? Take a few other facts in illustration of this point. All the powder of the State at Milledgeville was left behind to make room for the "collards" and chickens, and was sent forward the next day by persons who felt greater interest in the property of the State than the Governor. Three thousand stand of arms were also left behind as insignificant when compared with the Governor's "plunder," and these were all destroyed by the enemy. "The facts reach us from sources of the first respectability."

—Senator Wilson's only son, a Lieutenant in the 51st Colored Infantry, has been appointed an aid on General Ferrero's staff.

—Mr. A. W. Thayer has been appointed Consul of Trieste, in place of Richard Hildreth, obliged to resign on account of ill health.

—General Morgan L. Smith has succeeded General Dana in command of the Post and District of Vicksburg.

—They have "struck the" in the Saginaw valley, and Michigan opens "her labor-shed" in reaping.

—The Nashville Press, the McClellan organ in Tennessee, now comes out flatly for a separation of the North and South.

—General Thomas has two men in his employ who serve as scouts and spies at the imminent hazard of their lives. The rebel General Johnston offered a reward of \$50,000 for their capture. They have been caught within the Rebel lines, and often in their very camps, but so disguised as to defy detection.

—The Louisville Democrat says that the Lieutenant Governor of Kentucky, R. T. Jacobs, who was recently ordered through the Confederate lines by the military authorities of that State, is now at Gallipoli, Ohio. The Rebel authorities refused to receive the exile, saying that they "do not intend to let President Lincoln make a Botany Bay of the South."

—Major General Alexander McDowell McCook received orders this week to report to Major-General Sheridan, and left Dayton on Tuesday to do so. General Sheridan was the commander of a division in McCook's Corps during the Chickamauga campaign. As both are true soldiers, the change in their relations will be a subject of less interest to them than to others.

LITERARY REVIEWS.

HISTORY OF THE WORLD, FROM THE EARLIEST RECORDS TO THE PRESENT TIME. By Philip Smith, B. A. Appleton & Co., Boston.

"Yet I do not think all are, one increasing purpose of time."

History is not a chronological account of past events; it is rather a homopoeic in which the future of nations can be read. From the past by analogy we foretell the future. History, like every other science for writing a narrative account of events in a proper manner, is a science as much as chemistry or botany, has a history itself. In the earlier dawn of civilization deeds of importance increased so rapidly, that the plan of oral tradition became impossible. So long as mankind were divided into tribes, with a patriarchal head to each, the trifling events in their existence could be retained by descending from father to son. But when the great nations of the earth were formed by the coalition of these numerous tribes, important wars, changes of monarchies, invasions and discoveries, demanded that a more permanent and comprehensive record should be adopted than that of memory.

History is a science of the past, which, in its history, corresponded to what is now known as a chronicle. It is a science of the past, which, in its history, corresponded to what is now known as a chronicle. It is a science of the past, which, in its history, corresponded to what is now known as a chronicle.

The first volume, the only one yet published, comprises universal history, from the Creation to the establishment of the Christian era. It is written in the most pleasing style of narrative, somewhat resembling that of Agnes Sackville, and is embellished with beautiful engravings of the "Queen of Song." To lovers of the opera of music should wish to procure the work. It will make a most beautiful Christmas gift, and will have an extensive circulation.

The work before us is a collection of slight biographies of the lives of the most distinguished operatic singers of the Old World. It is written in the most pleasing style of narrative, somewhat resembling that of Agnes Sackville, and is embellished with beautiful engravings of the "Queen of Song." To lovers of the opera of music should wish to procure the work. It will make a most beautiful Christmas gift, and will have an extensive circulation.

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QUEEN OF SONG. By Ellen Creathorne Clayton. Harper & Brothers, New York.

Almost every field of biography has been thoroughly traversed, and all its crannies windings laid before the American people, but Miss Clayton, who has discovered a new province, and treated us to a most delightful account of its beauties and eccentricities. The lovers of music in general will justly feel that she owes the private lives of those whose sweet voices have come to us from across the sea.

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THE MYSTERIES OF FLORENCE. By George Lipard. T. B. Peterson & Brothers, Philadelphia.

A most exciting work, and one which has great fascination for the lovers of dungeons, elixirs, and alchemy. It will be bought and read by the masses, and although it possesses no literary merit above mediocrity, yet the skill with which the plot is laid out, and the dramatic interest of the story, will make it a most successful Christmas gift, and will have an extensive circulation.

MARGARET DENZIL'S HISTORY. Harper & Brothers, New York.

A novel is viewed, by a certain class of our citizens, as a worthless, if not immoral work, and the pursuit of it is discommenced. This has been caused by the deterioration of this class of literature from its original model. From pure works of imagination or social narration of nature, it has become a pamphlet to the passions. Hence the disrepute into which it has fallen with many of our most respectable citizens. Every work, therefore, which tends to elevate works of fiction as a class to their original standard, should be hailed as a blessing to the literary world. "Margaret Denzil's History" is such a work. It is pure in style and contents. A most excellent, moral, yet interesting, thrillingly fascinating work. We regret that the authoress is unwilling to throw aside her *imaginaire*. She has won herself a reputation.

HOW TO GET A FARM AND WHERE TO FIND ONE. James Miller, New York. Agent for Philadelphia, G. W. Picher.

The work before us is the poor man's work. It is not intended for the rich; they have their money and can buy their farms when they please, but to the poor man who desires to rise in the social scale—who desires a home for himself and family, and is ready to work to obtain it—to such a man the work appeals for a careful perusal.

The whole plan of farming Government land is treated in a practical manner; no theory, no favorite hobby, but a simple explanation of the facts and directions for making use of the experience of others. This is one of the most desirable works which has fallen under our notice. Our agricultural community are too much neglected by our writers; the work is a valuable and a book which is needed is always a good work. We should think that the anonymous author was a farmer, he treats of his subject thoroughly. It may be thought to praise too strongly; of course the work has its defects, but we cannot but then it is wanted, and we commend it to every farmer in our country.

FOLLOWING THE DRUM. By Mrs. Brigadier-General E. L. Viole. T. B. Peterson & Brothers, Philadelphia.

A thrilling narrative of the incidents of the war. It is full of humor and rare wit, and will be read by thousands. It is got up in the popular style in which the publishers frequently issue their military novels. It is founded on fact, and is a cultivated style. It will have a popular circulation, and will be read by thousands of those who take an interest in the war. It is not one of mere fungus growth, but has permanent value and will outlive the present excitement.

FROM BALTIMORE TO-DAY.

Billed Match in Baltimore. Special to The Evening Telegraph.

BALTIMORE, December 12.—The great billiard match between Frank Parker, of Chicago, and J. W. Coon, of Cleveland, Ohio, came off last night at Franklin Hall, and was witnessed by a large concourse of persons. Mr. Coon, on the seventh inning, ran 112 points, and continued to lead his opponent to the end of the game of 1500 points, running it out in seventy-seven innings, making an average of 194, the largest average on record in a public match game of 1500 points. When within 185 points of making game, Mr. Coon ran 273 points before missing a shot on the two red balls. Time—Two hours and twenty-five minutes.

The recent storm was very severe on the Chesapeake and along the coast. Several vessels have been injured, and others entirely wrecked. A large fleet of vessels—transport—left Fortress Monroe yesterday, bound south.

MARRIED.

CITRY-TOW.—On the 12th inst., at the residence of 1110 N. 10th Street, at 3 o'clock, by Rev. J. J. Jones, Mr. WILLIAM P. GILLY and Miss MARY E. TOW, all of Philadelphia.

MATHEW LADD.—On the 12th inst., at the residence of Dr. S. B. Ladd, by Rev. J. J. Jones, Mr. MATHEW LADD and Miss MARY E. TOW, all of Philadelphia.

EDWARD GILL.—On the 12th inst., at the residence of Dr. S. B. Ladd, by Rev. J. J. Jones, Mr. EDWARD GILL and Miss MARY E. TOW, all of Philadelphia.

STINGER.—On the evening of the 11th inst., at the residence of Dr. S. B. Ladd, by Rev. J. J. Jones, Mr. STINGER and Miss MARY E. TOW, all of Philadelphia.

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WANTS.

FREIGHT CONDUCTORS AND BRAKES.—Wanted.—The Railroad and Ship Company want a number of experienced freight conductors and brakemen, who are authorized to take them on duty. A. J. FAIRBANK, Agent, First Division, Mount Carmel, Pa. Apply to the Agent at the Philadelphia office, or to the Agent at the Mount Carmel office.

TO LET.—A FARM.—A farm of about 100 acres, situated in the County of Chester, Pa., and near the Philadelphia and Mount Carmel Railroad, is for sale. Apply to the Agent at the Philadelphia office, or to the Agent at the Mount Carmel office.

FOR SALE.—A VALUABLE LOT.—A lot of ground, situated in the County of Chester, Pa., and near the Philadelphia and Mount Carmel Railroad, is for sale. Apply to the Agent at the Philadelphia office, or to the Agent at the Mount Carmel office.

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